

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 21, 25, 41, 45, 49 and 52 have been amended. Claims 2-4, 22-24, 33-40, 42-44, 50-51, and 57-60 are hereby cancelled. Claims 14, 16 and 17 were previously cancelled. No new claims have been added. Claims 1, 5-13, 15, 18-21, 25-32, 41, 45-49 and 52-56 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner identified certain claims as being allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims. Independent claims 1, 21, 41 and 49 have been amended to place them into condition for allowance. Independent claims 1, 21, 41 and 49 have been amended to include limitations from claims (2, 3, 4); (22, 23 24); (42, 43, 44); and (50, 51), respectively. Therefore, independent claims 1, 21, 41 and 49 are in condition for allowance. As such, all claims depending on independent claims 1, 21, 41 and 49 are also now in condition for allowance. Independent claims 33, 37, 38 and 57 as well as all claims that depend on these claims have been cancelled. It follows that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

If any further amendments to the claims are needed to place the application in condition for allowance, we request that the Examiner contact us by telephone to discuss the proposed additional amendments.

Disclaimers Relating to Claim Interpretation and Prosecution History Estoppel

The claims of this application are intended to stand on their own and are not to be read in light of the prosecution history of any related or unrelated patent or patent application. Furthermore, no arguments in any prosecution history relate to any claim in this application, except for arguments specifically directed to the claim.

Conclusion

In view of all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested and allowance at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned to answer any questions or to discuss further steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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